BRARY

THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF ELY

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year
1946
by

K. S. MAURICE SMITH
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Medical Officer of Health.

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R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L O F E L Y

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1946.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1946.

1. STATISTICS:

During 1946 the usual statistics have been kept and are available. These are not included in my report according to instructions.

2. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES:

(a) Ambulances. (i) Infectious Cases - Motor Ambulance owned by the Joint Isolation Hospital Committee.

(ii) Non-infectious Cases.

A. Motor Ambulance for Ely Urban and Rural cases stationed at the Urban Council's Depot in Barton Road.

B. Motor Ambulance at Littleport. This is the property of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and is run and manned by members of the Littleport Divisions of St. John. It is available for civil cases of illness or injury.

Excellent work has been done throughout the year by these vehicles.

(b) Nursing and Clinic Arrangements - These are materially the same as in previous years, and very little comment is necessary here.

(c) Isolation Hospital - Staffing difficulties have continued but an efficient service has been maintained throughout the year.

3. WATER:

(a) The supply for the District is drawn from two chalk wells at West Row. The efforts of the Water Engineer and his staff have maintained adequate supplies throughout the year.

3. WATER (Contd.)

(b) (i) The Chloramine Plant has been in use continually and has proved satisfactory. The chloramine process permits of the treatment of the water at the source.

(ii) Periodic chemical and bacteriological analyses were made during the year and proved satisfactory.

(iii) No contamination was discovered during the year.

(iv) The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

(v) Over 95% of the dwellinghouses are supplied with water direct from public water mains.

A small percentage of dwellinghouses are supplied by standpipe.

It is estimated that the percentage of the population supplied approximates to the figures given above for houses.

4. SEWAGE:

No sewage extensions were carried out during the year. Schemes under the Rural Water Supplies & Sewerage Act 1944 are being proceeded with and are now in an advanced stage of preparation.

5. HOUSING:

(a) In conjunction with the Sanitary Inspector, I have maintained as close a scrutiny as possible on housing and on problems arising therefrom. Necessary action has been taken to abate statutory nuisances. One of the very great problems is finding alternative accommodation when required (see next paragraph).

(b) Alternative accommodation of a temporary character has been obtained by the taking over of disused huts at Witchford Airfield and at the Littleport Ex-R.A.F. Hospital Annexe. These huts are now being converted for temporary homes and some of them will shortly be available for occupation. From a public health point of view it must be emphasised that these measures must be regarded as a temporary measure only, to cope with the present acute housing crisis. They cannot be said to be satisfactory from a long term policy point of view.

(c) Additional housing sites have been acquired in all parishes and building is proceeding. In the parishes of Littleport, Sutton, Stretham and Wilburton some houses have been completed. The Rural District Council is fully alive to the emergency of the housing problems and has exerted every possible effort during this year to implement already prepared schemes.

6. SCHOOLS:

I do not wish to make any comments this year.

7. MILK SUPPLY:

(a) Cowsheds: As in previous years, I cannot admit that I find cowshed conditions at all satisfactory in many cases. Every effort is made, together with the Sanitary Inspector, to improve matters, but more willing and efficient co-operation on the part of some cowkeepers would be very much appreciated.

(b) Milk Examinations: These are carried out as and when thought fit; and the results vary from very good to bad.

8. INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

(a) 28 cases of infectious diseases were received. There was no predominating type of infectious disease among these notifications. The incidence is a good deal lower than in the immediate past which is very satisfacto

(b) Disinfection of premises etc., is regularly carried out in cases of notifiable disease; also, when infection is reported, or requests are received for any special reasons. Clothing and bedding are disinfected at the Joint Isolation Hospital.

(c) The arrangements for the treatment of scabies cases, which were made with Wisbech in 1944 are still maintained. The incidence of this disease is at a very low level in the area.

(d) Tuberculosis: 16 new cases notified during the year. After making necessary adjustments, there are now the following numbers on the Register :

	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
Male	18	16
Female	22	9

Compared with 1945, the increase in the total number of cases on the Register is 12, made up as follows :-

	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
Male	1	3
Female	7	1

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
K.S.MAURICE SMITH
Medical Officer of Health
Ely Rural District Council.